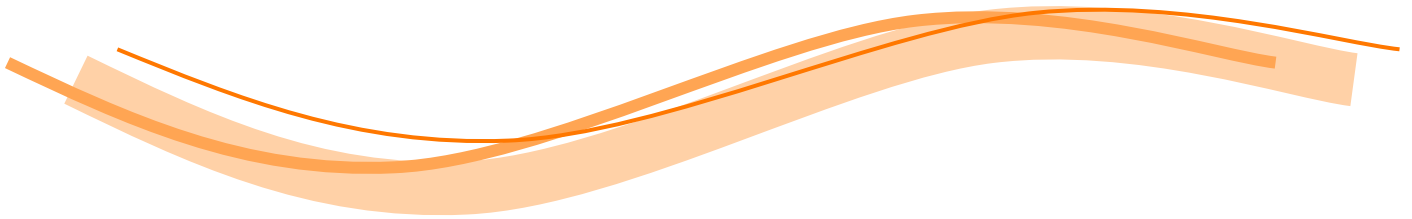




NEW ZEALAND

with APT





NEW ZEALAND	<p>New Zealand is a fascinating destination. You will be welcomed by friendly, good humoured locals and become immersed in both the Maori & English culture including great local foods and wines. And New Zealand is made up of a stunning range of landscapes and natural environments.</p> <p>For a visual taste – have a look at my Pinterest board: http://pinterest.com/TravelShow/new-zealand/</p>
Location	The country is situated 10,400km south-west of North America, 1,700km south of Fiji and 2,250 km east of Australia.
Geography	<p>1600 km in length, New Zealand consists of two major islands - North 115,000 km² and South 151,000 km². Stewart Island 1700 km² is located immediately south of the South Island.</p> <p>It is slightly larger than Great Britain.</p>
Name	<p>Contrary to popular belief, although the nation state of New Zealand was named after the province of Zeeland in the Netherlands, the name New Zealand was not given by Abel Tasman. Tasman named the country Staten Landt. Sometime between 1643 and 1645 the name Staten Landt was changed to Zelandia Nova and appeared as such, probably for the first time, in Blaeu's world map of 1645-46. 'Zelandia' and 'Zeeland' are clear references to the Dutch province of Zeelandt from which the new name was derived. But how the change occurred has always been something of a puzzle.</p>
Population	New Zealand has a population of 3.3 million, mostly of British descent; this population also includes 403,000 Maoris or about 15% of the population.
Language	English is the common language of New Zealanders. The Maori people have their own language, a beautiful lilting tongue - particularly when heard in the context of an action song or poi dance.
Currency	New Zealand Dollar. Currently \$1 CDN = \$1.22 NZ (as at 23 Aug 2013)
Tipping	Employed persons in New Zealand do not depend on tips or gratuities for their income. Service charges are not generally added to hotel or restaurant bills in New Zealand.
Government	<p>The Government of New Zealand is modeled on the British system of parliamentary democracy with elections based upon universal adult suffrage, a party approach to politics and an independent judiciary. Like Britain, New Zealand is a constitutional monarchy. The Head of State - Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II - is represented within the country by a resident Governor-General.</p>
Documentation	<p>Passports are required for all visitors to New Zealand from North America. All travel documents must be valid for at least 3 months beyond the intended stay in New Zealand. Every person arriving in New Zealand must complete an arrival card.</p> <p>No visa is required for citizens of Canada and the U.S. for stays of up to</p>

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	3 months or less.
Time zone	New Zealand has a single universal time zone. The country, close to the international date line, is 12 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (including 30 minutes permanent saving time). Daylight Saving Time - an advance of 1 hour - is observed from October to early in March. So: NZ is generally 16 hours ahead of EST.
Health	New Zealand's medical and hospital facilities, both public and private, provide a high standard of treatment and care. It is important to note that medical services are not free to visitors (except as a result of an accident), so it is strongly recommended that visitors carry adequate medical insurance which covers them against hospitalization costs, and loss of income resulting from hospitalization. Hotels and motels normally have individual arrangements with duty doctors for guest's attention should illness occur.
Safety tips	New Zealand is a very safe country for travelers, but steer away from the many adventure options like bungee jumping if you are nervous!

CLIMATE	
General climate	New Zealand has a particularly clear unpolluted atmosphere with average daily sunshine ranging from 7-8 hours in summer to 4-5 hours in winter. Seasons are the reverse of those in the Northern Hemisphere i.e. warm in October through April and cooler in June through August. The sub-tropical regions north of Auckland support oranges, grapefruits and other sub-tropical fruit horticulture. South of Auckland, the North Island experiences frost at night in the winter but snow generally falls only on the mountain peaks. Extensive orchards and vineyards in the Hawkes Bay region indicate long warm summers. The South Island has extensive snow falls on the great Southern Alps mountain chain during the winter, most of which disappears in the summer months, feeding the hundreds of lakes, rivers and fiords.
Today's weather	16 degrees Centigrade with sun and showers (23 August 2013)
Best time to visit	Any time is a good time in NZ, but the warmest months are in our winter months

GETTING THERE	
Flying time	From the West Coast of the United States, a direct flight to New Zealand takes about 12 hours.
Cities	Auckland - largest Wellington - capital Christchurch – South Island's biggest city
Distances	Auckland to Wellington is about 9 to 10 hours drive
Ferries	The Inter-Island Ferry is a drive-on/drive-off service operating several times daily between Picton and Wellington (approx. 3.5 hours). Advance

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	bookings are recommended especially during peak periods (December, January, February, public and school holidays).
Trains	Travelling by rail is a relaxing way to see New Zealand. Trains take you from one place to another while giving you a spectacular sightseeing trip. In many cases, you will see parts of New Zealand that are not accessible by road. Light meals and drinks are often available in these modern passenger trains. Popular train trips include the North Island Overlander and the South Island's TranzCoastal, TranzScenic and TranzAlpine.
Car Rental	<p>New Zealand is perfect for a self-drive vacation. It is long and narrow and at any given point, you are no farther than 120 kms from the ocean. The tremendous diversity of its topography is comparable to an entire continent. Within a few hours travel you can go from subtropical beaches to alpine glaciers, from fiords to rainforests and from cosmopolitan cities to great tracts of wilderness. With so much to see and do, we recommend that you allow at least two weeks to explore this extraordinary country.</p> <p>Any visitor may drive in New Zealand, using a recognized driving permit (Canadian license or an International Driving Permit) for a maximum period of 12 months from date of arrival in New Zealand or until the expiry of the license, whichever is the earlier.</p> <p>New Zealand highways (in the main) are of a high standard; main highways are sealed and offer no difficulty for motorists from overseas. Those routes not sealed are generally well-graded and maintained. Visiting drivers can generally expect to average 90km per hour during a day's drive in New Zealand.</p>
Buses	Daily scheduled bus passenger services are available, covering nearly all of New Zealand. It's so easy to get from point A to point B. Coach tour options are also available and often provide a commentary along the route. Most major destinations and tourism regions have several departures daily.

ACCOMMODATION TYPES	Part of the pleasure of travel is choosing where to stay. Do you want a room with a view, a luxury suite or a campsite for your motorhome? NZ has it all, from some of the most luxurious lodges in the world to great value for money hostels.
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TARGET GROUPS	
Kids	If you are visiting the larger centres, you will find a range of themed attractions including Rainbow's End (Auckland), Splash Planet (Hastings), Marine Land (Napier) and the International Antarctic Centre (Christchurch). Te Papa, New Zealand's interactive national museum, has a range of activities for the whole family to enjoy, including Story Place, a haven for small children.

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Teens	Sea Kayaking in Abel Tasman National Park: It takes a lot to beat this wonderful paddle into the best-preserved and most beautiful coastline of New Zealand. Keep company with nosy seal pups and dolphins; call into pristine, deserted beaches; and explore rocky headlands.
Adventure Travel	<p>New Zealand constantly invents new ways of getting an adrenaline buzz! Here are some of my personal recommendations:</p> <p>Zorbing. This is perhaps the most ridiculous and fun adventure activity of them all! I entered a narrow hatch into a giant translucent bubble, followed by my two sons and a gallon of warm, soapy water. Then the hatch was sealed and we were pushed off the top of a grassy hill to bounce crazily downwards with all our limbs and bodies tangling as the horizon rotates in every direction. Such are the joys of hydro-zorbing at Rotorua's Agrodome!</p> <p>Black Water Rafting. Waitomo Adventures take you deep underground through a series of interconnected, water-worn passages that grow darker and narrower until you come to a subterranean river. In your wetsuit, you perch on a tube and raft through the cave system until you come to a cavern lit only by glowworms high above...Utterly unique!</p> <p>Freefall Simulation. A jet engine below creates a funnel of wind at about 150 miles per hour on which - if you get your balance right - you can hover in mid air with a sensation something like that of freefalling. But get your balance just a little wrong, and the air current flings you aside like so much scrap paper!</p> <p>Tandem Swoop. OK, so tell me if this sounds like a good idea...My older son and I were zipped into parallel hang-gliding harnesses, raised up over 40 metres above the New Zealand countryside, at which point I pulled a ripcord, plunging us downwards at 130 km/hr in a nosedive...only to ascend again and do it over again...this time backwards!</p> <p>Sky Jump. Sky Tower Auckland. One way of flushing any jetlag out of your system is to drive straight to the Sky Tower and jump off the top! The surge of adrenaline left me with no vestige of tiredness after the long flight and multiple time zones. Sky Jump is a controlled base jump by wire from 630 feet above Auckland, plummeting at 75 km/hr for 16 seconds of sheer terror. There is a moment as you teeter on the edge of the jump platform atop the Sky Tower that you question your sanity...Then you</p>

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	leap - only to be halted in midair after a second as the Sky Jump team let you dangle on a level with the Observation Deck for the entertainment of more sensible visitors to Sky Tower...Then suddenly you are released to gravity's tender mercies, leaving your stomach behind to wonder where the rest of your body has gone!
Honeymoons & Weddings	On top of glaciers, in geothermal wonderlands or on pristine sub-tropical beaches...there are endless options for the romantics!
Seniors	NZ is an excellent choice for seniors who either want to enjoy a coach tour of the amazing sights of NZ or who want to drive themselves around at a leisurely pace in a country where the natives are friendly and speak English!

UNIQUES	
Surprising	Getting wild in Queenstown : this is New Zealand's adrenaline capital, where you get more than one chance to show how crazy you really are. There are more daredevil stunts per square inch here than anywhere else in the country. An international skiing mecca in winter, it readily transforms itself into summer madness as well.
History	The first settlers of New Zealand were the ancestors of the Maori - Polynesians - who also settled most of the islands and island groups in the central and eastern Pacific. Archaeological evidence indicates that they discovered New Zealand sometime between 800-1000 AD during one of the last in a long series of deliberate voyages of colonization across the Pacific, originating from S.E. Asia some 5-7000 years ago. In comparison with the coming of the Maori, European settlement is very recent. New Zealand was declared a British territory in 1840, the year that organized European settlement became a reality. Over these last 150 years a prosperous and modern nation has been established - a far cry from the wild, but very beautiful land first discovered by Dutch navigator, Abel Tasman in 1642, and thrice visited by Captain James Cook, Royal Navy, from 1769 onwards. Tasman produced New Zealand's first map embracing the several hundred miles of coastline he saw before continuing on his voyages of discovery. It was left to Cook to carry out a thorough exploration of the shoreline and to produce the first complete maps on his return to England.
Books	Frommer's New Zealand Whale Rider by Witi Ihimaera (also a 2002 film)
1000 Places to see before you die	The Bay Islands, North Island Lake Taupo; Rotorua; Marlborough Wine Region; The Grand Traverse Hike; Milford Sound & Doubtful Sound; Mount Cook National Park & Tasman Glacier;

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	Queenstown, home of jet-boating and bungee jumping
Must Sees	Fiordland and Rotorua geothermal area

SPORTS ACTIVITIES	In New Zealand, Rugby Union could be called their national religion. To be selected to play for the country's team, the "All Blacks", is an honour with greater importance than the prime minister.
Golf	<p>New Zealand has more golf courses per head of population than any other country in the world!</p> <p>The staggering variety and lush beauty of its 400 un-crowded golf courses have given New Zealand its well-deserved reputation as a "golfers' paradise." On New Zealand's long narrow islands, one is never very far from the sea, but chances are, one is even closer to a golf course. In fact, it is impossible to travel farther than 30 miles without coming upon one of the country's 400 golf courses.</p> <p>Planted in fine grasses, marvelously designed courses are noted for being un-crowded, beautifully maintained and wonderfully diverse. New Zealand is also one of the most inexpensive golfing countries in the world, and the green fees ranging from NZ\$5 to NZ\$40, are an incredible value. Don't be surprised by some unusual hazards: boiling mud pools, steaming thermal vents and even the occasional sheep.</p>
Fishing	<p>Seventy years ago, author Zane Grey dubbed New Zealand an "angler's El Dorado," and the country has been proving him right ever since. Travellers will find some of the world's best fresh and salt water fishing in locations as breathtakingly beautiful as nature has ever devised in crystal-clear waters for fish that are bigger and wilder than anywhere else.</p> <p>Trout Fishing in Taupo: they say the fish in Lake Taupo are so big that when you catch one, the lake level drops. The dozens of other rivers (especially world-renowned Tongariro) and streams in the region also have rich pickings for the fisherman.</p> <p>Big game fishing has no seasonal restrictions and no fishing license is required for sea fishing. While the Bay of Islands is the most well known base for game fishing, charters from Whakatane, Coromandel Peninsula, East Cape and Marlborough Sounds are also available. The best time for big game fishing is during January, February, and March. Game fishing involves the charter of a big game boat and skipper. Species fished include striped marlin, Pacific blue and black marlin and broadbill swordfish. Yellowtail (kingfish), mako, hammerhead and thresher sharks are also popular catches.</p>
Skiing	When the sun warms up in the Northern Hemisphere, skiers and snowboarders come down to the Southern Hemisphere. The ski season generally runs from late June to September. The country has 13 conventional ski areas; as an added bonus at Mount Cook, you can fly by ski plane or helicopter to the 2,400m (7,872-ft.) head of the Tasman

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	Glacier and ski down the 14km run. For up-to-the-minute South Island ski details, check out www.nzski.com .
Hiking	<p>Walking the Glaciers: dig out those snow boots and walking poles, add a dash of nerve and daring, and take the walk of a lifetime down Fox or Franz Josef Glaciers in the deep south. And don't forget your camera so you can bring home those unforgettable views into the snow caves.</p> <p>Walking the Fiordland Tracks: If you fancy yourself as a multi-day trumper, there's plenty to keep you out of mischief in Fiordland. This is where you get some of the best walks in the world - the Milford, the Hollyford, the Kepler, and the Routeburn tracks.</p>
Cycling	There's an increasing number of organized bike-tour companies in New Zealand. New Zealand Pedaltours , in Parnell, Auckland (tel. 09/302-0968; www.pedaltours.co.nz), offers both North and South Island trips on 12 routes lasting from 3 to 19 days, on- and off-road. It creates customized tours of moderate exertion level, and a support van is always around to take the load off your pedals. Adventure South (tel. 03/942-1222; www.advsouth.co.nz) offers a range of 6- to 21-day cycle tours of the South Island that may also include some walking excursions.
Sailing	<p>New Zealand is a sailing hotspot. From Cape Reinga at the tip of the North Island to Bluff on the southernmost point of the South Island, there are thousands of kilometres of coastline to explore – deep water harbours, sheltered coves, remote islands and tranquil bays. What's more, boat cruises, charters, kayaking and fishing experiences are easily accessible and offered throughout the country.</p> <p>The Bay of Islands, Northland The Bay of Islands in New Zealand's winterless north has 144 islands and is one of New Zealand's most popular maritime parks. Getting out on the water here can range from taking a ferry to the historic village of Russell, a day cruise to the outer islands, a high-speed jet boat ride, kayaking or chartering your own yacht to explore in peace and privacy.</p> <p>Auckland Known as the 'City of Sails', with more boats per capita than anywhere else in the world, it's easy to get out on the harbour in Auckland. Weather conditions make perfect sailing for anything from the latest America's Cup race boats to the classic yachts of yesteryear. Take a harbour cruise; or ferry out to one of the islands – Waiheke is perfect for wineries; while there's an array of great walking opportunities on Rangitoto. Kayak or paddleboard hire is also available at many beaches.</p> <p>Marlborough Sounds At the tip of the South Island, the Marlborough Sounds is a sailing</p>

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	<p>paradise with a myriad of drowned valleys, islands, coves, bays and beaches to explore. What's more, you're cruising around a region that produces award-winning wines and seafood – so trips ashore are magic. Choose to take a boat cruise, take a kayaking tour, or ferry into Picton.</p> <p>Abel Tasman National Park The sandy white secluded beaches of the Abel Tasman National Park are easily reached by boat – if you haven't got your own, take a water taxi! The region's sunny climate, forest clad coastline, golden beaches and turquoise waters make it popular for land and water-based holidays. There's a multitude of kayaking and paddle boarding options on offer here.</p>
Diving	<p>Scuba Diving in the Poor Knights: Jacques Yves Cousteau rated this among the best diving spots in the world. This unique marine reserve has the best of tropical currents sweeping in to make it warm and inviting for a wide variety of tropical species that aren't found anywhere else in New Zealand's waters.</p>

CULTURE	
Arts	<p>In major public art galleries - found in Auckland, Wellington, Nelson, Christchurch and Dunedin - you can browse historic collections that take you back to the 1800s, when the country was undergoing its most significant transformation. Modern works are also featured - keep an eye out for works by Hotere and McCahon, two of our most acclaimed contemporary artists. Public galleries focus on regional artists, but they also have impressive national and international collections.</p>
Music	<p>New Zealand has three professional symphony orchestras, including the highly acclaimed NZSO (New Zealand Symphony Orchestra). There are also a large number of excellent choirs, including the National Youth Choir, which recently won a number of prestigious international events. Recent co-productions between European-style groups, such as the Royal New Zealand Ballet and the NZSO, and Maori music and dance groups, are examples of a bicultural 'fusion' currently occurring.</p>
Films	<p>NZ as Middle Earth! All three films in the "Lord of the Rings" series were filmed on location in New Zealand over a fifteen month period. "The Fellowship of the Ring" the first in the trilogy, was released in 2001. Based on the books of J. R. R. Tolkien, mythological "Middle Earth" was set in a number of different locations throughout the country.</p>
Museums	<p>If you want to understand what makes New Zealand tick, visit museums wherever you go. Finding out the why, where, how and who in any town or city adds an extra layer to your travel experience.</p> <p>Each major museum has its own specialities. Auckland Museum is known for an impressive collection of Maori and Polynesian artifacts; Te Papa in Wellington offers a very modern, and often interactive, learning</p>

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	experience; Canterbury Museum has a strong focus on Antarctica; Otago Museum in Dunedin takes an in-depth look at the natural and social history of the South Island. The provincial cities also have plenty to show you - check out Puke Ariki in New Plymouth and the wearable art museum in Nelson
Festivals	There are many festivals of all kinds throughout the year; here's one or two to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NZ International Festival of the Arts: early March in even years - Bay of Islands Jazz and Blues Festival: mid August - NZ Hot Air Balloon Festival, Hamilton: mid April - Royal Easter Show, Auckland: April

ATTRACTIONS	
Beaches	With more than 15,000 kms of coastline, New Zealand knows all the moods of the sea. On the east coast the Pacific Ocean plays along bays and beaches where white sand, surf and calm harbours provide enormous scope for fun. On the west coast the Tasman Sea, notoriously wild, breaks against rugged cliffs, weathered rocks and long, soulful stretches of black sand.
Wildlife	<p>New Zealand's separation from other land masses about 100 million years ago allowed many ancient plants and animals to survive and evolve in isolation. Before humans settled in New Zealand, it would have been an extremely noisy place! Large tracts of lush native bush supported an incredible variety of bird life. As they evolved, wings became unnecessary for some birds, as they had no natural predators to fly away from. As a result, several of New Zealand's native birds became flightless, including the kakapo parrot, the kiwi, the takahe, and the world's largest bird, the (now extinct) moa.</p> <p>As Maori and Europeans settled New Zealand, they hunted birds and brought predators including rats and stoats. This, and loss of habitat, led to the extinction of a number of birds including the moa and huia.</p> <p>Native birds</p> <p>New Zealand's national symbol is a nocturnal flightless bird with nostrils on the end of its large beak. The kiwi is now endangered, and difficult to see in the wild. However there are a number of 'kiwi houses' at zoos and wildlife parks. While they may look cute, kiwi can be fierce and highly territorial.</p> <p>These are some other well-known New Zealand native birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The playful kea is one of the most intelligent birds in the world and will happily attack a car in order to steal a windscreen wiper or other bits of rubber! - The loveable weka is a flightless bird with a penchant for shiny objects. - The takahe has a beautiful indigo plumage and bright red beak.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The tui is famed for its beautiful singing and white 'parson's collar'. - The morepork owl is so named because of the sound of its call, often heard at night. <p>The Ancient Tuatara The tuatara is a unique relic of the past - the only beak-headed reptile left in the world. Every species of this reptile family, except the tuatara, died out around 65 million years ago. Tuatara can live for over 100 years, and are only found on protected offshore islands.</p> <p>Sea life New Zealand has abundant and diverse marine life, and whale watching and swimming with dolphins are two of our most highly recommended experiences. The small Hector's dolphin is the world's rarest dolphin and only found in New Zealand waters. Seals, penguins and a whole host of fish and shellfish also thrive in New Zealand's fertile marine environment.</p>
Parks	<p>New Zealand has known human habitation for less than a thousand years. Before then, it was a land of forests, mountains and beaches. The loudest sounds were birdsong, wind and waves.</p> <p>Fourteen spectacular national parks preserve New Zealand's natural heritage. Enshrining a huge variety of landscapes, vegetation and wildlife, our parks allow you to discover the heart and soul of a country that will never be totally tamed.</p> <p>Te Urewera National Park 2,127 km² 1954 Together with neighbouring Whirinaki Forest Park, Te Urewera is the largest remaining stand of native forest in the North Island. Lake Waikaremoana, within the park, is noted for its scenic shoreline.</p> <p>Tongariro National Park* 796 km² 1887 New Zealand's first national park, recognised as one of the 27 World Heritage Sites that are of both outstanding natural and cultural value. Gifted to the Crown by Te Heuheu Tūkino IV, the park includes several sacred Māori sites and three active volcanoes, Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe and Tongariro.</p> <p>Egmont National Park 335 km² This park comprises the land about a nine-kilometre radius of Mount Taranaki/Egmont and some outlying areas to the north. The symmetrical cone of the dormant volcano is a provincial landmark.</p> <p>Whanganui National Park 742 km² 1986 Bordering the Whanganui River, it incorporates areas of Crown land, former state forest and a number of former reserves.</p> <p>Abel Tasman National Park 225 km² 1942 The smallest national park, this popular tourist destination has numerous tidal inlets and beaches of golden sand along the shores of Tasman Bay.</p>

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	<p>"Doing the Abel Tasman" as a tramping or kayaking journey is a popular activity.</p> <p>Kahurangi National Park 4,520 km² 1996 Situated in the north-west of the South Island, Kahurangi contains spectacular and remote country, including the well-used Heaphy Track. Ancient landforms and unique flora and fauna add to the value of New Zealand's second largest national park.</p> <p>Nelson Lakes National Park 1,018 km² 1956 A rugged, mountainous area in Nelson Region. It extends southwards from the forested shores of Lake Rotoiti and Rotoroa to the Lewis Pass National Reserve.</p> <p>Paparoa National Park 306 km² 1987 On the West Coast of the South Island between Westport and Greymouth. It includes the celebrated Pancake Rocks at Punakaiki.</p> <p>Arthur's Pass National Park 1,144 km² 1929 A rugged and mountainous area straddling the main divide of the Southern Alps.</p> <p>Westland Tai Poutini National Park* 1,175 km² 1960 Extends from the highest peaks of the Southern Alps to a wild remote coastline. Included in the park are glaciers, scenic lakes and dense rainforest, as well as remains of old gold mining towns along the coast.</p> <p>Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park* 707 km² 1953 An alpine park, containing New Zealand's highest mountain, Aoraki/Mount Cook (3,754 m) and its longest glacier, Tasman Glacier (29 km). A hotspot for mountaineering, ski touring and scenic flights, the park is an area of outstanding natural beauty.</p> <p>Mount Aspiring National Park* 3,555 km² 1964 A complex of impressively glaciated mountain scenery centred on Mount Aspiring/Tititea (3,036 m), New Zealand's highest peak outside of the main divide.</p> <p>Fiordland National Park* 12,519 km² 1952 The largest national park in New Zealand and one of the largest in the world, the park covers the southwest corner of the South Island. The grandeur of its scenery, with its deep fiords, its glacial lakes, its mountains and waterfalls, make it a popular tourist destination.</p> <p>Rakiura National Park 1,500 km² 2002 Covering about 85% of Stewart Island/Rakiura, this is the newest of the national parks.</p> <p>Asterix denotes part of UNESCO World Heritage Site</p>
Gardens	<p>Informative botanic gardens, private landscapes and lush native forests – it's all here. The rural garden tours in Eastland, Manawatu/Wanganui, Wairarapa and Canterbury are often hosted by residents of stately historic homesteads. Roses, rhododendrons and camellias thrive in New Zealand and are featured in many of the public gardens.</p>

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	<p>The famous Ellerslie International Flower Show is held in Auckland every November and Christchurch's Floral Festival takes place in February each year.</p> <p>If you visit New Zealand in December, look for the native pohutukawa tree in bloom - its crimson flowers are fabulously festive.</p>
Castles	Larnach Castle is New Zealand's only castle. It perches on a hill overlooking the magnificent Otago Harbour near Dunedin on South Island.

OTHER ACTIVITIES	
Shopping	<p>The following items are listed on the basis that they are either unique to New Zealand and/or can represent high quality and value for money:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arts and crafts - Maori carvings - Bone/Greenstone carving - New Zealand wines - Hand knitted sweaters - Sports/outdoor clothing - Sheepskin products - New Zealand wooden bowls, picture frames
Markets	The City Farmers' Market operates in the centre of Auckland's Britomart precinct and brings a bounty of regional produce to town for Aucklanders every week. Fresh, seasonal, quality fruit and vegetables, eggs, meat, olives and olive oils, condiments, coffee, artisan breads, cheese and much more — direct from local growers, farmers and makers.
Nightlife	Auckland has the greatest variety and international style nightlife options, but in many NZ towns, the neighbourhood bar or pub is the place to meet locals and enjoy some fun music.
Casinos	There are four casinos in NZ: in Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin and Queenstown.

CUISINE	New Zealand's food and wine marriages are legend-making. Central Otago Pinot Noir with Canterbury lamb, Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc with world-famous Bluff oysters, Gisborne Chardonnay with Golden Bay scallops, Martinborough Pinot Gris with Lake Ohau salmon - such complements are heaven-sent.
Food	<p>Pacific Rim cuisine</p> <p>New Zealand food goes way beyond fish and chips and barbeques – chefs have developed a distinct Pacific Rim cuisine. Expect to indulge in plenty of seafood (like greenlipped mussels, crayfish (lobster), Bluff oysters and fresh fish), award winning cheeses and of course the famous lamb. You should also expect a laidback, friendly atmosphere wherever you eat; Kiwis love to keep things casual.</p>

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Wine	<p>Indulging in local food and wine is a must-do for many travellers. If gastronomy and the odd tippie are high on your agenda, New Zealand won't disappoint.</p> <p>New Zealand is a food and wine lover's paradise. Vineyards stretch throughout every region, chefs put playful local twists on fine cuisine and festivals serve up taste sensations with a side of local music. The Hawkes Bay, Martinborough and Marlborough and Central Otago are signature New Zealand wine regions; explore your pick of 120 vineyards by driving the Classic New Zealand Wine Trail. If you're after a really thorough wine tour, add West Auckland, Gisborne, Canterbury to your itinerary.</p> <p>Most wineries are open for tasting, and many have fine restaurants onsite. There are plenty of bicycle and chauffeur-driven wine tours too – a great way to take in the full spectrum of local flavours. Their internationally acclaimed varieties include Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and the Bordeaux (Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot blends), so get ready to sample!</p>
Restaurants	<p>Every kind of restaurant awaits you, but here are four top end recommendations from our friends at Frommer's:</p> <p>Dine by Peter Gordon (Auckland; tel. 09/363-7030): The latest rave on the Auckland culinary scene, this lush little spot is the new playground of London/NZ celebrity chef Peter Gordon. Set in the new SKYCITY Grand Hotel, it's bound to stimulate every taste bud you own.</p> <p>Café Bastille (Wellington; tel. 04/382-9559): This cute little French bistro-style den is a winner if you're after a smart but casual ambience with terrific food. A winner in the Best Restaurant of New Zealand stakes, it shouldn't be bypassed.</p> <p>Herzog (Blenheim; tel. 03/572-8770): Expect the very best from this winery and restaurant that has been held up by New York's Wine Spectator for its impressive stock of around 3,200 of the world's best wines. It's a fine dining experience you won't forget in a hurry.</p> <p>Rotherams (Christchurch; tel. 03/341-5142): Swiss-born chef Martin Weiss has mastered the art of stunning his hungry patrons. In an interior that's all about romance and special occasions, he presents meals that excel in both presentation and taste. Not to be missed - likewise the extensive wine list.</p>

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MORE INFO	
Brochures	http://www.newzealand.com/ca/utilities/request-a-map to request a tourist map of New Zealand
Website	http://www.newzealand.com/ca for the NZ Tourism site

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES	<p>Auckland – museum, Kelly Tarlton’s Underwater World; Waitomo Caves – glow-worms; Rotorua – thermal wonderland, Agrodome, Maori Arts and Crafts Inst; Otorohanga– Kiwi House; Lake Taupo – Huka Falls; Tongariro NP; Wellington – InterIslander Ferry (3 hrs); Nelson; Shantytown – gold panning, steam train; Franz Josef Glacier – helicopter ride; Queenstown – Shotover jet boat, gondola; Te Anau – TSS Earnslaw steamship, Glow Worm Caves; Milford Sound – keas, Lake Gunn hike, Red Boats cruise, Doubtful Sound float plane; Dunedin – Larnach Castle, Royal Albatross Colony, penguins; Mount Cook Village; Christchurch</p> <p>2005 on location Travel Show: SkyJump at Sky Tower Auckland Museum Hilton Auckland Kelly Tarlton’s Underwater World Ferry to Waiheke Island, dinner at Mud Brick Cafe Drive north to Paihia, Bay of Islands (4hrs) Dolphin Discoveries – boat tour of Bay of Islands and dolphin encounter Overnight at Copthorne Bay of Islands Waitangi Treaty Grounds and tour Drive west to Waipoua Kauri Forest (1hr) – forest hike Drive south to Auckland (4hrs) Overnight at Hilton Auckland Drive south to Waitomo (3hrs) Waitomo Adventures – blackwater rafting in glow-worm caves 4hrs Drive east to Rotorua (2hrs 45) Overnight at Duxton Hotel Okawa Bay, Rotorua Hot Pools at hotel Te Puia – Whakarewarewa Thermal Valley, Pohutu Geyser, Kiwi House, Maori Arts and Crafts Maori Concert</p>
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	<p>Zorb and Swoop at Agrodome Drive to Matamata (1hr15) Matamata Visitor Centre Hobbiton Movie Set and Farm Tour Return to Auckland (2hrs)</p>
<p>APT: Australia Pacific Touring</p>	<p>APT offers luxury all-inclusive holidays to some of the world's most sought after destinations. After 85 years in business, APT are the experts in New Zealand and Australia and this is reflected in their exquisitely crafted itineraries that include exciting additions such as trains, ferry's, small planes, boat rides and more.</p> <p>Not only does APT offer local guides, professional, experienced Tour Directors, luxury coaches and first class dining and accommodation - their Premier escorted tours also give you unparalleled choice. As well as the signature "must sees" - in every destination you'll also have the opportunity to choose from a range of land touring options that tailor your vacation experience.</p> <p>So, for instance, on a tour that stops in Auckland you will see the Auckland city sights and cruise in Waitemata Harbour. But then you can choose from activities like a visit to the Auckland Museum, a guided exploration of Auckland's lush rainforest and black sand beaches – or stay at your hotel for a massage.</p> <p>APT Premier means you'll also enjoy freedom of choice dining and stay in some unforgettable accommodation that is unique to APT. For instance – the iconic Hermitage hotel at the base of snow-capped Mt Cook boasts sophistication, luxury, magnificent views and superb dining.</p> <p>Or you can select APT's Value-Plus touring - the perfect vacation if you're on a budget, yet still want to enjoy the main attractions and sights and stay in comfortable accommodation. Relax knowing your travel arrangements are being looked after, with an excellent range of sightseeing inclusions and cultural highlights while on tour. With a good balance of free time, you'll also have the freedom to explore each destination as you choose.</p> <p>On an APT tour you will visit iconic landmarks, explore new cities and immerse yourself in a world of interesting cultures and delicious cuisines. All while travelling with a mix of like-minded, English speaking fellow travellers. APT guests are mainly from Britain and North American with some Australians and New Zealanders - creating opportunities for friendships with people from other countries on tour.</p>

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	<p>New Zealand is a fascinating destination. You will be welcomed by friendly, good humoured locals and become immersed in both the Maori & English culture including great local foods and wines. And New Zealand is made up of a stunning range of landscapes and natural environments.</p> <p>So, for example, your APT tour in New Zealand may take you to Hobbiton – the film set of “Lord of the Rings” - to see the Hobbit houses and the familiar landscapes of that epic movie. And to Rotorua, where you can see Nature at work in bubbling volcanic mud pots and astonishing geysers. To the beautiful curved harbour of Wellington, the capital city of New Zealand. Or to Queenstown – South Islands’ capital of soft adventure with amazing outdoor activities.</p> <p>APT’s East Coast Adventure Tour in Australia explores the East Coast from Sydney to Cairns. The highlight is to cruise, swim and snorkel the Great Barrier Reef. And APT also offer tours to the island of Tasmania which offers pristine wilderness, extraordinary wildlife and a unique history.</p>
<p>APT’s Magnificent New Zealand</p>	<p>The “Magnificent New Zealand” Itinerary is the perfect tour for anyone wanting a full tour of the highlights of New Zealand. This takes in both North and South Island, New Zealand’s major cities and natural wonders from the volcanic area of Rotorua to the magnificent Franz Josef Glacier. Plus travel on New Zealand's famous TranzAlpine train - one of the world’s greatest train journeys as you voyage from Christchurch to Arthur's Pass.</p> <p>Here is a summary of the itinerary:</p> <p>Day 1. Auckland This morning arrive in Auckland, ‘The City of Sails’. You'll be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of today is at leisure to relax and settle in, or begin exploring this wonderful city. This evening, enjoy a Welcome Dinner with your APT Tour Director and your fellow travellers. Stay: Two Nights: Auckland, Crowne Plaza Hotel Daily Meals Included: Dinner</p> <p>Day 2. Auckland, Freedom of Choice Today you’ll enjoy the freedom to choose from a range of included sightseeing activities here in Auckland. Hop aboard one of the yachts in the Pride of Auckland fleet and enjoy a magical cruise on Waitemata Harbour. Or, discover the diverse artistic legacy and cultures of New Zealand at the Auckland Museum. Enjoy an up-close encounter with giant sharks, eels and scores of fish at Kelly Tarlton’s Sea Life</p>

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Aquarium, or delve into New Zealand's rich maritime history at the Voyager Maritime Museum. Other options available to you include a head, neck and shoulder massage at Bliss Reflexology, and a wilderness adventure into the Waitakere Rainforest.

Daily Meals Included: Breakfast

Day 3. Paihia, Hole in the Rock Cruise

From Auckland, enjoy a scenic drive to Paihia. Step aboard a catamaran this morning and cruise to Cape Brett and the famous Hole in the Rock. Hear about the ecology and history of the area as you keep an eye out for local marine life, including common and bottlenose dolphins.

Stay: Two Nights: Copthorne Hotel and Resort Bay of Islands

Daily Meals Included: Breakfast Dinner

Day 4. Paihia, Freedom of Choice

The Bay of Islands is home to an incredible 144 islands and is a wonderland for lovers of all things aquatic. The area is the birthplace of New Zealand and as such, teems with history. After breakfast, select your activity. Embark on a tall ship sailing adventure or take a dolphin watching cruise. Play a round of golf or cruise to Russell. Discover Kerikeri, or visit the northernmost point of New Zealand at Cape Reinga. Alternatively, this evening you may like to take in a Culture North Night Show in the Waitangi Treaty Grounds.

Daily Meals Included: Breakfast

Day 5. Paihia, Rotorua

Follow the east coast Pacific Ocean Drive from Paihia through Whangarei and head south through Warkworth. Admire the breathtaking view over Waitemata Harbour as we take the Auckland Harbour Bridge. Travel through the lush Waikato farmland to Cambridge and then continue south to Rotorua. This evening, the Tamaki Maori Village welcomes us as we experience the dance, music and culture of the Maori people at a traditional Hangi Feast and village experience.

Stay: Two Nights: Millennium Rotorua

Daily Meals Included: Breakfast Dinner

Day 6. Rotorua, Freedom of Choice

Select from a fantastic range of sightseeing activities today. Take in an entertaining sheep show at the Agrodome followed by a visit to Te Puia Thermal Reserve. Alternatively, you might like to see the colourful hot springs at Wai-O-Tapu. Tonight, enjoy a special dinner at Longlands Farm.

Daily Meals Included: Breakfast Dinner

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**Day 7. Rotorua, Taupo, Napier**

This morning, depart Rotorua and stop at the charming town of Taupo, alongside New Zealand's largest lake before continuing through Esk Valley and Te Pohue to the seaside city of Napier, an area dominated by orchards and vineyards, and world-renowned for its striking Art Deco architecture. On arrival, enjoy a tour and delicious wine tasting at the New Zealand Wine Centre. Perhaps explore this picturesque coastal town at your leisure, before dinner at your hotel this evening.

Stay: Napier, Scenic Hotel Te Pania

Daily Meals Included: Breakfast Dinner

Day 8. Napier, Wellington, Freedom of Choice

Today's drive takes us through scenic Waipukurau and Woodville and over the Rimutaka Ranges and through the historic towns of Greytown and Masterton before arriving in New Zealand's vibrant capital city - Wellington. Tonight, choose where to dine.

Stay: Two Nights: Amora Hotel Wellington

Daily Meals Included: Breakfast Dinner

Day 9. Wellington, Freedom of Choice

Experience the capital's many delights today. Learn about New Zealand's incredible natural history at Zealandia, or perhaps explore the Carter Observatory and Planetarium complete with a cable car ride. Take in the city's highlights, or see the areas of Wellington that feature in the 'Lord of the Rings' trilogy.

Daily Meals Included: Breakfast

Day 10. Wellington, Nelson

This morning board the Interislander ferry and cross Cook Strait. This ferry journey is one of the most picturesque cruises in the world.

Disembark in Picton and continue to Nelson.

Stay: Two Night Stay: Nelson, Trailways Hotel

Daily Meals Included: Breakfast Dinner

Day 11. Nelson, Freedom of Choice

Today, select from a range of inclusions, including a visit to the quirky Wearable Art and Classic Cars Museum, or perhaps spend the day exploring Nelson's art and wine scene.

Daily Meals Included: Breakfast

Day 12. Nelson, Kaikoura, Christchurch

Follow the rugged east coast of New Zealand's South Island to Kaikoura, where the unique combination of mountains and ocean creates a stunning contrast. Here, perhaps take in a scenic whale watching flight

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(own expense). Continue to Christchurch.
Stay: Christchurch, Latimer Hotel
Daily Meals Included: Breakfast Dinner

Day 13. Christchurch, TranzAlpine Train, Franz Josef

Today is sure to be a highlight of your holiday as you join New Zealand's famous TranzAlpine train. Prepare to experience one of the world's greatest train journeys as you voyage from Christchurch to Arthur's Pass. Journey through the striking patchwork farmlands of the Canterbury Plains, before travelling through deep gorges, river valleys and across the magnificent Southern Alps within Arthur's Pass National Park. Reboard your coach at Arthur's Pass and set out for Hokitika, a town rich in jade greenstone. Here, see Pounamu (jade) being carved into jewellery. Later, continue along the dramatic west coast into Westland National Park, home to the magnificent Franz Josef Glacier. Take in the stunning alpine scenery in this impressive World Heritage Area.

Stay: Franz Josef Glacier, Scenic Hotel
Daily Meals Included: Breakfast Dinner

Day 14. Franz Josef, Wanaka, Queenstown

This morning, cross the spectacular Haast Pass and skirt around the shores of lakes Wanaka and Hawea, see the dramatic vistas and surrounding mountains that shift mood with the seasons. View historic mining sites as we travel through beautiful Kawarau Gorge and meander through Cromwell. See the incredible orchards and vineyards that have been inspiring artists for decades before arriving in the 'adventure capital of the world', Queenstown.

Stay: Three Nights: Queenstown, Crowne Plaza Hotel
Daily Meals Included: Breakfast Dinner

Day 15. Queenstown

Immerse yourself in beautiful Queenstown as you enjoy a full day at leisure. Take a relaxing stroll along the shore of Lake Wakatipu, browse through the stores in the central shopping district, or take advantage of many of the thrilling activities on offer.

Daily Meals Included: Breakfast

Day 16. Queenstown, Freedom of Choice

Personalise your holiday experience today, as you enjoy your chosen Freedom of Choice activity. 'Lord of the Rings' fans will jump at the chance to visit key filming locations, whilst thrillseekers will find the exhilarating Shotover jet boat ride tough to resist. Or, get back to nature with an enthralling lakeshore forest and bird watching walk complete

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with a delicious morning tea. Others may enjoy exploring the country's premier wine region, or taking in the city sights from a double decker bus - the choice is all yours. This evening, enjoy even more variety as you select from a range of Freedom of Choice Dining inclusions.
Daily Meals Included: Breakfast Dinner

Day 17. Queenstown, Milford Sound Cruise, Milford Road, Te Anau

Travel via the scenic Eglinton Valley and witness the diversity of New Zealand's landscapes as lush rainforest meets snow-capped mountains in Fiordland National Park. Experience one of the world's most spectacular alpine drives along Milford Road en route to stunning Milford Sound. Enjoy an exceptional cruise along the full length of this beautiful fiord. Take in the cascading waterfalls and keep an eye out for seals, penguins and dolphins before arriving in Te Anau. Covering more than 186 square miles, Lake Te Anau is the second largest lake in New Zealand.

Stay: Two Nights: Distinction Te Anau Hotels and Villas

Daily Meals Included: Breakfast Dinner

Day 18. Te Anau, Freedom of Choice

Today, choose from a range of exciting activities. Perhaps explore an incredible underground network of limestone caves, lit by thousands of glowworms. Equally tempting is the option to sit back and relax with a glass of wine whilst you enjoy a film featuring Fiordland's breathtaking landscapes. The rest of the day is at leisure.

Daily Meals Included: Breakfast

Day 19. Te Anau, Dunedin, Freedom of Choice

Depart the lakeside settlement of Te Anau and traverse Southland to Dunedin, a university town that was planned in Scotland and still maintains its Victorian and Edwardian heritage. Known as the Edinburgh of the south, this former goldmining town was once New Zealand's largest city thanks to an influx of miners during the goldrush. This afternoon, choose from our extensive range of Freedom of Choice Sightseeing inclusions. Perhaps tour Larnach Castle, New Zealand's only castle, and learn of its intriguing history. In keeping with the heritage theme, you may prefer to visit Olveston House, or visit Dunedin's beautiful railway station and board the Taieri Gorge Railway for a journey into the rugged countryside. Those who enjoy a beer might like to tour Speight's Brewery and taste the local brew that has been produced on this site since 1876. Alternatively, nature lovers can either visit an albatross colony, see penguins or take an off-road tour of the Otago Peninsula.

Stay: Scenic Hotel Dunedin City

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	<p>Daily Meals Included: Breakfast Dinner</p> <p>Day 20. Dunedin, Mt Cook Today, travel north via the Waitaki Valley and Oamaru. See the unique collection of elegant Victorian-style architecture here, as we follow the coast to view the mysterious Moeraki Boulders along Koekohe Beach. Follow the shores of the distinctive blue Lake Pukaki before entering spectacular Mt Cook National Park. Here, appreciate the sheer magnitude of Australasia's highest mountain, Aoraki (Mt Cook). Stay: Two Nights: The Hermitage, Mt Cook Daily Meals Included: Breakfast Dinner</p> <p>Day 21. Mt Cook, Freedom of Choice Today, perhaps visit the Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre, or immerse yourself in the region's incredible native flora and fauna on a guided nature walk. During the summer months, enjoy an up-close encounter with spectacular icebergs on the Tasman Glacier Terminal Lake, or perhaps join an exciting expert-led stargazing session tonight. This evening, enjoy a Farewell Dinner with your fellow travellers. Daily Meals Included: Breakfast Dinner</p> <p>Day 22. Mt Cook, Christchurch This morning travel to beautiful Lake Tekapo and visit the Tiny Church of the Good Shepherd. Absorb the serenity of this magical area before continuing to Christchurch. Stay: Christchurch, Latimer Hotel Daily Meals Included: Breakfast</p> <p>Day 23. Christchurch After breakfast this morning, transfer to the airport.</p>
<p>APT Background</p>	<p>A family-owned company since its auspicious conception in the 1920's, APT had its beginnings when Bill McGeary built a bus body on a tray truck after a tram strike affected the city of Melbourne. Through Bill's son Geoff, APT pioneered Australia's dynamic travel industry in the 1960s and 1970s via a diverse range of modes. Such innovation continues to thrive within the APT Group today, now a multi-brand business with an extensive global portfolio of touring and cruising products still owned and controlled by the McGeary family.</p> <p>Now, with a third generation of the family contributing to the APT Group's success, the benefits of the company's family-style culture are increasingly apparent. While vigorously pursuing a global vision, the unwavering focus is on delivering a life-enriching and memorable holiday experience for each and every individual.</p> <p>Such longevity in a competitive environment, coupled with a proven</p>

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	ability to meet the shifting expectations of the modern traveller, is testament to the pioneering spirit upon which the company was founded, and upon which it continues to operate and flourish today.
Australia East Coast Adventure Tour	<p>Join APT for 12 days and explore the East Coast of Australia from Sydney to Cairns with two nights at Fraser and a two night stay at Daydream Island. The highlight is to cruise, swim and snorkel the Great Barrier Reef. Here are the tour highlights:</p> <p>Sydney Tower Dinner - Take in the breathtaking view from Sydney Tower Restaurant at a special Welcome Dinner</p> <p>Green Island - Discover the incredible marine life of the World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef</p> <p>Sunshine Coast - Engage with the incredible array of wildlife at Australia Zoo</p> <p>Fraser Island - Explore the world's largest sand island and stay two nights</p> <p>Cairns - Ride high above the rainforest canopy on the Kuranda Scenic Skyrail and soak up Aboriginal culture at a corroboree at Tjapukai By Night</p>
Tasmania – The Grand Tasman Tour	<p>APT has a great tour of one of my favourite destinations Down-Under: Tasmania. Join for 10 days to experience the beautiful coastline of Freycinet National Park and the ruins of Port Arthur before arriving in Hobart. Tour the beautiful Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair, cruise the Gordon River. Here are the highlights of the tour:</p> <p>East Coast Natureworld - Meet a rare Tasmanian Devil and other unique wildlife</p> <p>Port Arthur - Take a step back in time and delve into Australia's convict history</p> <p>Salamanca Market - Peruse the many stalls of the famous Salamanca Market</p> <p>Ashgrove - Tour the Ashgrove Cheese Factory and sample the local produce</p> <p>Cradle Mountain - Soak up the atmosphere in Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park</p> <p>Tamar River - Enjoy a picturesque cruise along the Tamar River through magical Cataract Gorge</p>
More Information	<p>Website: www.aptouring.com</p> <p>Tel: 1 800 290 8687</p> <p>Booking: reservations@aptouring.com</p> <p>Brochures: http://www.aptouring.com/the-apt-experience/Brochures</p> <p>Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/aptouringna</p>

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